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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 61

NUMBER 24

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

DECEMBER 11, 1950

DEC 22 1950

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

L A T E N E W S

The second official cotton report for Egypt, released on December 4, places the 1950 crop at 1,696,000 equivalent bales (of 500 pounds gross weight). This represents a reduction of 173,000 bales from the first estimate and is 100,000 bales less than the final estimate for 1949. The latest 1950 estimates (1949 figures in parentheses) include 541,000 bales (768,000) for extra long-staple varieties, mostly Karnak, Giza 23, and Menoufi; 338,000 (161,000) for Giza 30 (medium long staple); 771,000 (829,000) for Ashmouni and Zagora, and 46,000 (39,000) for other varieties and ungraded cotton (scarto). Exports of certain lower grades and staples below 1-1/8 inches are prohibited until further notice to protect the supplies needed by local mills.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

DRY EDIBLE PEA PRODUCTION 11 PERCENT UNDER 1949 IN 30 COUNTRIES

Total 1950 production of dry edible peas in 30 countries, excluding China, is estimated at 17 million bags which is 11 percent less than the 1949 production of 19 million bags and 24 percent below the 22 million bags estimated for the wartime 1940-44 average production. However, it is 7 percent above the prewar 1935-39 average of 16 million bags.

It is difficult to estimate the world production of dry edible peas in 1950 satisfactorily because of the lack of information from China where most of the world's dry peas are produced. China, in 1949, produced an estimated 62 million bags, (100 pounds), or 77 percent of the 1949 world total of 81 million bags.

The 1950 dry edible pea acreage for the 30 countries, excluding China, is estimated at 1.6 million acres or 14 percent below the 1.8 million acres in 1949, 20 percent below the wartime 1940-44 average of 2.0 million acres but 10 percent above the prewar 1935-39 average of 1.4 million acres.

The low 1950 production and acreage for the 30 countries reflects the following trend of yields: 1,066 pounds per acre in 1950, 1,030 pounds in 1949, 1,119 pounds average in the wartime period 1940-44 and 1,101 pounds average in the prewar period 1935-39. On the whole it appears that 1950 was a poor year for pea production. The average yield per acre was below either the prewar or the wartime average.

Among the 30 countries, excluding China, the United States is the largest producer with a 1950 crop estimated at 2.9 million 100-pound bags. The United Kingdom is second with 2.6 million bags. The Netherlands is third with 1.7 million and France, French Morocco, Western Germany and Canada rank next in order with less than 800,000 bags each in 1950. North America and Europe are the most important trading areas with North Africa and Oceania contributing exports in limited amounts mostly to Europe.

North America

In North America, only 3 countries report pea production. These are the United States, Canada and Mexico. The total 1950 crop in these countries is estimated at 3.5 million bags which is 11 percent below the 1949 crop of 3.9 million bags. It is 54 percent below the wartime average of 7.6 million bags and only 2 percent above the prewar 1935-39 average of 3.4 million bags. This year's crop in Canada is the lowest in 42 years. It is the smallest in the United States since 1940.

Pea acreage in North America in 1950 is estimated at 284,000 acres or 11 percent below the prewar 1935-39 average, 31 percent below last year and less than 50 percent of the wartime high average acreage of 611,000 acres. The 1950 acreage was the lowest in the United States since 1939 and the lowest in Canada in many years.

| Continent and country | Acreage | | | Yield per acre | | | Production | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Average | | | Average | | | Average | | |
| | 1935-39 | 1940-44 | 1949 | 1935-39 | 1940-44 | 1949 | 1935-39 | 1940-44 | 1949 |
| | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | 1,000 bags | 1,000 bags | 1,000 bags |
| NORTH AMERICA | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada..... | 85: | 88: | 58: | 948: | 982: | 969: | 1,024: | 864: | 562: |
| Mexico..... | 12: | 14: | 20: | 342: | 500: | 475: | 450: | 70: | 95: |
| United States..... | 223: | 509: | 335: | 1,152: | 1,309: | 975: | 1,350: | 6,665: | 3,267: |
| Total..... | 320: | 611: | 413: | 1,068: | 1,244: | 950: | 1,230: | 7,599: | 3,924: |
| EUROPE | | | | | | | | | |
| Austria..... | 12: | 10: | 6: | 1,217: | 1,140: | 1,374: | 1,333: | 114: | 84: |
| Belgium..... | 18: | 30: | 13: | 2,239: | 2,073: | 2,723: | 2,808: | 403: | 622: |
| Bulgaria..... | 3: | 8: | 10: | 966: | 758: | 700: | 550: | 30: | 60: |
| Czechoslovakia..... | 34: | 31: | 25: | 1,185: | 1,197: | 1,148: | 1,120: | 403: | 371: |
| Finland..... | 30: | 34: | 25: | 1,297: | 903: | 1,188: | 1,148: | 389: | 307: |
| France..... | 50: | 55: | 64: | 1,410: | 1,322: | 1,367: | 1,506: | 705: | 875: |
| Germany: | | | | | | | | | |
| Western Zone..... | 33: | 43: | 75: | 1,536: | 1,570: | 1,381: | 1,478: | 507: | 675: |
| Eastern Zone..... | 64: | 68: | 160: | 1,442: | 1,540: | 938: | 875: | 923: | 1,047: |
| Hungary..... | 73: | 172: | 71: | 1,084: | 1,131: | 986: | 714: | 791: | 1,945: |
| Italy..... | 59: | 51: | 45: | 678: | 535: | 504: | 609: | 400: | 273: |
| Netherlands..... | 91: | 87: | 50: | 2,569: | 2,054: | 2,976: | 2,735: | 1,723: | 1,488: |
| Norway..... | 2: | 3: | 1: | 1,713: | 1,429: | 2,205: | 2,205: | 39: | 37: |
| Rumania..... | 85: | 110: | 100: | 879: | 909: | 900: | 700: | 747: | 1,000: |
| Spain..... | 122: | 127: | 96: | 574: | 449: | 368: | 445: | 700: | 570: |
| Sweden..... | 34: | 58: | 35: | 1,329: | 1,159: | 1,280: | 1,300: | 452: | 672: |
| United Kingdom..... | 20: | 73: | 180: | 1,680: | 1,712: | 1,804: | 1,684: | 336: | 1,250: |
| Yugoslavia..... | 13: | 13: | 12: | 1,062: | 1,031: | 1,125: | 792: | 138: | 134: |
| Total..... | 743: | 973: | 968: | 1,271: | 1,191: | 1,242: | 1,168: | 9,447: | 11,591: |
| ASIA | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey..... | 7: | 3: | 4: | 535: | 689: | 468: | 446: | 36: | 23: |
| Japan..... | 101: | 26: | 15: | 889: | 1,071: | 800: | 981: | 898: | 268: |
| Total..... | 108: | 29: | 19: | 855: | 1,003: | 721: | 897: | 934: | 291: |
| SOUTH AMERICA | | | | | | | | | |
| Argentina..... | 25: | 27: | 45: | 800: | 752: | 778: | 778: | 200: | 203: |
| Chile..... | 71: | 66: | 49: | 706: | 695: | 616: | 600: | 501: | 459: |
| Uruguay..... | 2: | 2: | 2: | 500: | 668: | 1,026: | 1,000: | 10: | 11: |
| Total..... | 98: | 95: | 96: | 726: | 708: | 702: | 691: | 711: | 673: |
| AFRICA | | | | | | | | | |
| Algeria..... | 18: | 35: | 21: | 544: | 291: | 471: | 500: | 98: | 102: |
| French Morocco..... | 79: | 123: | 219: | 533: | 520: | 413: | 548: | 421: | 538: |
| Union of South Africa..... | 9: | 20: | 25: | 1,351: | 650: | 760: | 760: | 119: | 130: |
| Total..... | 106: | 178: | 265: | 602: | 489: | 451: | 493: | 638: | 870: |
| OCEANIA | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia..... | 29: | 30: | 6: | 776: | 1,067: | 1,361: | 1,500: | 225: | 320: |
| New Zealand..... | 18: | 38: | 43: | 1,578: | 1,392: | 1,395: | 1,395: | 284: | 529: |
| Total..... | 47: | 68: | 49: | 1,083: | 1,249: | 1,404: | 1,408: | 509: | 849: |
| World total (excl. China)..... | 1,422: | 1,974: | 1,810: | 1,101: | 1,119: | 1,030: | 1,066: | 15,656: | 21,873: |
| China..... | 6,558: | 5,543: | 7,700: | 832: | 829: | 804: | 812: | 54,567: | 62,674: |
| 1/ Preliminary. | | | | | | | | | |

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and include the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. Yields have been calculated on basis of unrounded estimates of acreages for countries of small production.

Except for generally good growing weather in North America in 1950 production would have been much lower. The 1950 average yield of 1,230 pounds per acre compares to 950 pounds in 1949, 1,244 average in the war-time 1940-44 period and 1,068 average in 1935-39.

Europe

In Europe, 17 countries included, the 1950 production is estimated at 10.6 million bags or 12 percent below the 1949 estimate of 12 million bags. It is 9 percent below the wartime 1940-44 average and 12 percent above the prewar 1935-39 average.

Pea acreage in Europe has not declined as much as production. The 904,000 acres planted in Europe in 1950 is 7 percent below last year's 968,000 acres, and 22 percent above the prewar 1935-39 average of 743,000 acres. Growing conditions in Europe were on the whole less favorable than in North America. Average yields per acre were 1,168 pounds in 1950, 1,242 in 1949, 1,191 during the war period and 1,271 in prewar 1935-39.

The United Kingdom, which is by far the largest producer of dry peas in Europe, reports a sharp decline of both acreage and production in 1950. Production decreased from 3.2 million bags in 1949 to 2.6 million in 1950, a decline of 21 percent. Acreage declined from 180,000 in 1949 to 153,000 in 1950, a decline of 15 percent. Yields were down to 1,684 pounds compared to 1,804 in 1949, 1,712 during the war and up slightly from 1,680 pounds in 1935-39.

The Netherlands, which is the second largest European producer, on the other hand, reports an increase of both acreage and production from last year. Production was up 16 percent to 1.7 million bags in 1950 from 1.5 million in 1949 and acreage to 63,000 in 1950 from 50,000 in 1949, an increase of 26 percent. Yields were a little less than last year but higher than the wartime or prewar averages. Italy, Spain and Belgium also reported increased production in 1950 compared to 1949. These increased from 21 percent to 31 percent. However, Finland, France, Western Germany, and Sweden, as well as the United Kingdom all reported decreases ranging from 3 percent to 43 percent.

Other Areas

Turkey and Japan both report sizable increase of both acreage and production in 1950 as compared to 1949 but neither produces many peas. Production of the 2 countries amounted to 22,000 and 265,000 bags, respectively, in 1950.

French Morocco on the other hand reported sharp declines of both acreage and production in 1950 from 1949. The 1950 production was estimated at 686,000 bags compared to 905,000 in 1949 and only 421,000 bags before the war. Acreage in French Morocco has shown a similar trend to production. Yields in 1950 were a little more per acre than in 1949 and a little less than the wartime average and considerably below the prewar average.

The 1950-51 crops in the Southern Hemisphere countries have not yet been harvested. Consequently estimates from those areas are very preliminary at this time.--By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

SPANISH PICKLED OLIVE PRODUCTION SMALLER

The 1950-51 season Spanish pickled olive production is estimated at 28,800 short tons in the Seville district compared with 60,000 tons (revised) in the 1949-50 season and 15,800 tons in 1948-49. The preliminary estimate is 17 percent below the 10-year (1938-39/1947-48) average of 34,900 tons and 29 percent below the 5-year (1934-44/1947-48) average of 40,400 tons.

In terms of hogsheads, this season's indicated production is 20,000 Queens compared with 70,500 in 1949 and 11,400 (revised) in 1948. The production of Manzanillas is expected to be 40,000 hogsheads compared with 54,500 in 1949 and 31,800 in 1948. This year's estimates are equivalent to about 3,200,000 gallons of Queens and 6,400,000 gallons of Manzanillas. These production estimates relate to the exportable crop in the Seville district only. Pickled olives of other types generally consumed in Spain are not included. Olives pickled in the neighboring provinces of Badajoz, Huelva, Cordoba and Cadiz which meet the necessary grades and quality requirements may be legally exported as Sevillana olives this year. The production in these provinces is not known at this time but would be in addition to the above figures.

The smaller pack this year is the result of the shortage of rains during the growing season and the fact that the crop follows a large one of the previous year. The drought conditions not only caused a heavy drop of immature fruit but also prevented proper sizing of the remaining olives. A heavier-than-normal percentage of fruit will be of the smaller sizes. It is estimated that only about 70 percent of the pack will meet required standards for export to the United States and Canada. This estimate indicates about 4,480,000 gallons of Manzanillas and 2,240,000 gallons of Queens will be available for export to those countries.

The 1949-50 export season came to a close with the 1949 crop of Manzanillas sold out for all practical purposes. It is estimated that about 11,000 hogsheads of Queens remained at the close of the season. The packing plants started stuffing these as soon as the pimiento was available in order to be ready to ship at the earliest possible date. The estimated carry-over of Queens, plus the possible additional tonnages in the neighboring provinces and estimated Seville pack, indicates supplies for export to the United States and Canada will be about average this season, although the combined figure will be less than half of last year's large supply.

SPAIN: Estimated production of pickled olives, 1950-51
with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

| Year | Queens | Manzanillas | Total |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Short tons</u> | <u>Short tons</u> | <u>Short tons</u> |
| <u>Average</u> | | | |
| 1938-39/1947-48: | 18,600 | 16,300 | 34,900 |
| 1943-44/1947-48: | 21,000 | 19,400 | 40,400 |
| <u>Annual</u> | | | |
| 1943-44.....: | 21,100 | 11,800 | 32,900 |
| 1944-45.....: | 8,600 | 14,400 | 23,000 |
| 1945-46.....: | 13,100 | 17,200 | 30,300 |
| 1946-47.....: | 33,600 | 28,800 | 62,400 |
| 1947-48.....: | 28,800 | 25,000 | 53,800 |
| 1948-49.....: | 3,800 | 12,000 | 15,800 |
| 1949-50 <u>1</u> /.....: | 33,800 | 26,200 | 60,000 |
| 1950-51 <u>1</u> /.....: | 9,600 | 19,200 | 28,800 |

1/ Preliminary.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, U. S. Foreign Service reports, results of office research and other information.

UNITED STATES: Imports of pickled olives from Spain

(Calendar year)

| Year | Pitted or stuffed | Unpitted (in brine) | Total |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>1,000 gallons</u> | <u>1,000 gallons</u> | <u>1,000 gallons</u> |
| <u>Average</u> | | | |
| 1940-49..... | 5,028 | 2,761 | 7,789 |
| 1945-49..... | 6,120 | 2,377 | 8,497 |
| <u>Annual</u> | | | |
| 1940..... | 3,693 | 3,028 | 6,721 |
| 1941..... | 3,095 | 2,272 | 5,367 |
| 1942..... | 2,599 | 2,386 | 4,985 |
| 1943..... | 5,155 | 3,423 | 8,578 |
| 1944..... | 5,137 | 4,611 | 9,748 |
| 1945..... | 6,915 | 2,265 | 9,180 |
| 1946..... | 8,070 | 1,822 | 9,892 |
| 1947..... | 3,697 | 2,597 | 6,294 |
| 1948..... | 7,108 | 3,785 | 10,893 |
| 1949..... | 4,808 | 1,417 | 6,225 |
| 1950 <u>1</u> /..... | 6,126 | 2,996 | 9,122 |

1/ 9 months, January through September.

Compiled from official sources of the Bureau of the Census.

The bulk of Spain's table olives and almost all of the export varieties are grown in the Province of Seville, near the city of Seville and the towns of Dos Hermanas, Utrera, and Moron de la Frontera. This year, for the first time, olives grown in parts of the provinces of Badajoz, Cadiz, Cordoba and Huelva may be exported, providing they come up to required standards. Seville remains as the only port through which olives, except those stuffed with anchoives, may be legally exported. It is estimated that about 99,300 acres are planted to table type olives in all of Spain. This estimate does not give bearing and non-bearing acreage separately. Practically the entire acreage is non-irrigated. The Province of Seville is reported to have 60,500 acres or 61 percent of the total.

The minimum export prices for the dollar area for the 1950-51 export season were fixed on November 1, 1950 as follows:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----|-----|--------|
| Stuffed Manzanillas | \$36.00 | per | 110 | pounds |
| Plain Manzanillas | 25.00 | " | " | " |
| Stuffed Queens | 34.00 | " | " | " |
| Plain Queens first | 24.00 | " | " | " |
| Plain Queens second | 21.00 | " | " | " |

The above prices were the minimum prices established by the Spanish authorities, but may be raised at any time at the discretion of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Exporters were to continue to receive the special rate of 16.425 pesetas per dollar with the privilege of retaining 10 percent of the foreign exchange saleable on the free market at a somewhat higher rate. In this connection the Association of Green Olive Exporters is advocating a rate of 25 pesetas per dollar.

Regulations for the handling and pickling of the 1950 olive crop were adopted by the Vertical Olive Syndicate on June 27, 1950, and published in the Boletin Oficial del Estado on August 2, 1950. The following is a summary of the salient features of the order:

Article I provides for the continued existence of the Green Olive Board (Junta de Aceituna de Verdeo) in Seville, presided over by the Provincial Chief of the Vertical Olive Syndicate and consisting of three growers and packers. This Board is to enforce provisions of the present order and to resolve problems relating to the green olive trade as they arise.

Article II provides that both growers and packers of the Province of Seville and adjacent areas of Cadiz, Huelva, and Badajoz may pickle the following types of green olives from the 1950 crop:

'MANZANILLA FINA, from Seville and adjacent parts of Huelva and Badajoz, but in the case of the latter 2 provinces a quantitative limit shall be established;

GORDAL ("Queen"), from any of the 4 mentioned provinces, providing each lot is accompanied by a certificate from the Provincial Agriculture Office showing the place of origin;

MORON, from a part of the Province of Seville and a part of the Province of Cadiz;

RAPAZALLA, from the Manzanilla zone of the Province of Seville;

MORADAS ("ripe") may be made from Queen size fruit only.

The preparation of other types of olives in the Province of Seville and the adjacent areas of Cadiz, Huelva, and Badajoz is forbidden, as is the introduction into the Province of Seville of pickled green olives from any other provinces (except Cadiz, Huelva, and Badajoz, as stated).

Other types of olives may be pickled in other provinces.

Article III gives the Ministry of Agriculture the right to fix minimum prices for the sale of the several varieties of green olives covered by these regulations, providing conditions require it.

Article IV authorizes growers to pickle their own green olive crop in bulk, providing they do not pack the fruit in small containers for retail sale, and providing they make prior to August 15, (1950) a declaration to the Vertical Olive Syndicate of the amount of fruit they expect to pickle. (They cannot acquire olives from other growers to pickle unless they are also registered as packers). No authorization is necessary for growers to pickle their olives for home consumption in quantities not exceeding 10 kilograms of olives for each farm hand and for each member of their households including servants.

Article V requires packers to register and to obtain authorization to purchase fruit for pickling and packing.

Article VI refers to the pickling of olives by proprietors of bars, cafes, hotels, and restaurants, for consumption on the premises.

Article XIV requires that all containers of olives for export be plainly marked to show the variety and quality of fruit they contain. It further provides that all exports of olives to the United States and Canada be shipped at Seville, and that all exports of Manzanilla olives to any foreign destination whatsoever also be shipped at Seville. (Shipments of anchovy-stuffed olives, in practice, are made at other ports). Only upon specific authorization from the Ministries of Industry, Commerce, and Agriculture, when recommended by the Syndicate shall the authorization of any olives other than Manzanillas and Queens be tolerated.

Article XV provides that the Board and the Syndicate shall take steps to assure that olives actually shipped are of the type and quality specified in the contracts with foreign purchasers, and that they are of the type legally exportable to the markets to which consigned.

Article XVI empowers the Syndicate and the Board to have their agents inspect and search the establishments of both growers and packers to enforce fulfillment of the regulations.

Article XVII establishes a tax of one peseta per 50 kilos of olives pickled to pay for the cost of executing the regulations.

Article XVIII: the Ministry of Agriculture will undertake to resolve conflicts which may arrive in connection with the enforcement of the regulations.---By Walter R. Schreiber, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

ITALY'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION LOWER; CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS HIGHER; IMPORTS DECLINE

A revised preliminary estimate of Italy's 1950 tobacco production places the crop at approximately 14 percent below the 1949 harvest according to L. J. Reda, Agricultural Economic Assistant, American Embassy, Rome. Tobacco exports during January-June 1950 were almost treble exports for the same period in 1949. Tobacco imports during January-June 1950 were reported about 5 percent below the comparable period in 1949 and 68 percent below the first half of 1948. Consumption of tobacco products during fiscal year (July-June) 1949-50 was about 4 percent above the same 1948-49 period and 18 percent above 1947-48.

The 1950 tobacco production is now provisionally estimated at 136.7 million pounds from 140 800 acres as compared to 158.2 million pounds from 136,400 in 1949 and 164.1 million pounds from 144,100 acres in 1948. Italy's 1949 tobacco harvest consisted of about 55 percent United States types, including Kentucky fire-cured, flue-cured, Maryland and Burley, about 30 percent Oriental leaf and 15 percent native leaf.

The country's January-June 1950 tobacco exports totaled 12.4 million pounds as compared to 3.5 million pounds during the same period in 1949 and 2.8 million pounds in the first half of 1948. Poland took 3.3 million pounds or about 27 percent of the total tobacco exports in the first 6 months of 1950, the Netherlands took 2.7 million pounds or 22 percent, the Soviet Union 2.0 million pounds and Germany 1.2 million pounds. The other 4.2 million pounds were taken by numerous countries including Sweden, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Algeria, Egypt and the United States.

Italy's imports of leaf and tobacco products in the January-June 1950 period totaled 6.3 million pounds as compared to 6.6 million pounds in the same 1949 period and 19.5 million pounds in the first 6 months of 1948. Of the total imports during the first half of 1950, about 94 percent was leaf tobacco. Greece supplied 3.0 million pounds of leaf. Turkey about 2.0 million pounds and the Soviet Union about 800,000 pounds.

During the 1949-50 fiscal year (July-June) Italy consumed approximately 86.2 million pounds of tobacco products. This compares with 82.7 million pounds in 1948-49 and 71.0 million pounds in 1947-48. Cigarette consumption in the July-June 1949-50 period totaled about 65.9 million pounds or 76 percent of the total tobacco consumed, cut tobacco ranked second with 12.4 million pounds or 14 percent, cigars third with 6.7 million pounds and chewing tobacco and snuff fourth with 1.2 million pounds. Tobacco, especially cigarette, consumption has increased rapidly since the end of World War II and is expected to increase more but at a lower rate than in the previous postwar years.

IRAQ'S 1950 LEAF CROP SAME AS 1949

Iraq's 1950 tobacco crop is estimated at about the same as the 1949 harvest, according to V. E. von Lossburg, Commercial Attache, American Embassy, Baghdad.

The country's 1950 leaf crop is unofficially estimated at 16.9 million pounds from 9,920 acres which is the same as the 1949 total but about 44 percent above the 9.5 million pounds produced in 1948. It is reported that the Director General of Agriculture is primarily interested in improving the leaf quality so as to establish a potential foreign export market. He is advocating the adoption of a 4-point plan to raise the standards of domestic leaf so it can become an important factor in Iraq's national economy. This plan includes the appointment of a qualified tobacco expert; the setting up of nurseries for the cultivation of improved tobacco; the establishment of a laboratory for proper classification of leaf and the training of an adequate number of agricultural officials to undertake demonstration and extension work among tobacco growers.

INDIA'S TOBACCO ACREAGE LOWER

India's 1949-50 tobacco acreage is preliminarily estimated at approximately 3 percent below 1948-49, according to C. O. Winberg, Vice Consul, American Embassy, New Delhi.

The country's 1949-50 acreage is tentatively estimated at 751,000 acres as compared to 777,000 acres in 1948-49. Of this total acreage, Madras the largest producing state in India, is estimated to have planted about 293,000 acres to tobacco. Bombay, the second largest leaf-producing state in India, planted about 187,000 acres. These 2 states combined account for over 75 percent of the country's total leaf production. Other tobacco-producing states are Mysore, Uttar Pradesh, Rikar, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Madhya, Pradesh, Hyderabad, and Tripuna.

Tobacco exports during January-June 1950 totaled 40.0 million pounds. During the marketing year 1948-49 (April-March) leaf exports totaled 50.8 million pounds as compared to 49.9 million pounds in 1947-48. The United Kingdom took 18.5 million pounds or about 46 percent of the January-June 1950 tobacco exports. Pakistan took 5.8 million pounds, Aden and dependencies 2.2 million pounds, Belgium 1.4 million pounds. The other 12.1 million pounds was taken in varying quantities by numerous other countries.

FATS AND OILS

ALGERIA REPORTS BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION

The 1950-51 olive oil production in Algeria is officially estimated at approximately 10 percent less than last season's official figure of 16,300 short tons, according to E.B. Erickson, American Consulate General, Algiers. However, production is expected, for the third consecutive year, to be above the average of the last 10 years.

Trade evaluation of the output is higher than the official figure, being based on a higher estimate of the amount of oil consumed directly by the native olive growers, which is not commercialized and a great part of which escapes any control. A trade source places this season's total outturn at about 20,000 tons and last season's at 22,000-27,600 tons of which about 4,400 tons were inedible.

This season's better-than-average olive oil outturn is attributed to favorable weather conditions, better care and consistent plantings of new olive trees from year to year, and limited damage by the Dacus fly.

The importation of 2,200 tons of unrefined peanut oil from India at £150 per long ton (\$375 per short ton) c.f. Algerian ports has recently been authorized by the Algerian Government General, chiefly with a view toward reducing the price level of edible oil since this oil can be refined locally and retailed at an estimated 180-200 francs per liter (\$519-\$577). Exports of finer grades of virgin and blended edible olive oil continue to be compensated in some degree by imports of cheaper oils.

During January-September 1950 Algeria exported 2,160 tons of refined olive oil. Cuba has replaced the United Kingdom as the principal market. Imports during the same period amounted to 1,774 tons, all from Tunisia.

Aside from the quantities which may be hoarded by the native population, olive oil stocks as of November 1, 1950, are estimated at around 2,000 to 3,000 tons.

Present wholesale prices average 215-220 francs per kilogram (\$557-\$570 per short ton) for pure edible olive oil--50 percent virgin and 50 percent refined, packed in large or small iron drums, the extra cost of which is refunded when the drums are returned.

No difficulties are foreseen by olive oil exporters in disposing of the current production at reasonable prices. It is expected that the present 9-franc per kilo (1.2 cents per pound) tax on olive oil imported into France from Algeria will be removed after December 31, 1950.

FRENCH MOROCCO REPORTS REDUCED OLIVE OIL OUTPUT

French Morocco's 1950-51 olive oil production is estimated by the Protectorate's General Agriculture Services at about 10,000 short tons or 25 percent less than last season's 13,000-ton output, according to E. L. Stanger, American Consulate, Rabat. The olive crop in the North, especially in the Fez area, is reportedly very good but in the South it is mediocre due to the long summer drought.

Since average annual local consumption of olive oil is estimated at 11,000 tons, this year's crop apparently will leave no exportable surplus. However, when prices are high olive oil for local consumption can be replaced to a considerable degree by cheaper peanut oil. If dollar exports can be made at satisfactory prices this season, it is believed that considerable stocks of olive oil normally held in producing areas can be diverted into export channels.

French Morocco exported only 64 tons of edible olive oil from January to September, practically all of which was sent to Brazil. Carry-in stocks of commercialized olive oil from the previous crop are negligible, although stocks held in producing areas are not believed to be exhausted.

The average wholesale price of unrefined olive oil of standard quality (3 to 4 degrees acidity) which was 160 francs per kilo (\$415 per short ton) on the Casablanca market in January 1950 had risen to 190 francs (\$492) in September and 200 francs (\$518) in October. Olive oil of exportable quality was reported in mid-November at 202 francs (\$524) f.o.b., Casablanca.

The olive oil market in French Morocco is now completely free of Government control and the domestic price fluctuates largely with that of the world market, except insofar as it is indirectly influenced by continuing Government control of the local vegetable oil market.

TUNISIAN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY FROM LAST SEASON

Tunisia's edible olive oil production for the 1950-51 season was estimated by the Residency General on November 15 to be between 44,000 and 50,000 short tons, reports M.E. Jeneid, American Consulate General, Tunis. In addition over 4,000 tons of olive foots oil are expected. The estimate of the semi-official "Office de l'Huile d'Olive de Tunisie" early in October had placed the yield of pure edible oil at 33,000 to 40,000 tons. Production during the 1949-50 season has been variously estimated at 106,000 to 118,000 tons.

Official sources attribute the decrease in production mainly to 2 factors: weather conditions not entirely favorable to budding and damage caused by a species of moth, particularly in the southern coastal area. As of mid-November olive orchards were in excellent condition although in some sections a premature fall of olives was feared.

If domestic edible olive oil consumption needs (about 33,000 tons) for the period November 1, 1950, through October 31, 1951, are to be met, exports during that period will have to be limited to a maximum of about 20,000 tons. French colonial peanut oil, the standard substitute imported into Tunisia for domestic consumption during years of poor olive oil yields, could be imported but the price quoted in mid-November at over 20,000 francs per 100 kilograms (\$519 per short ton) was higher than even the better grades of olive oil.

Exports of pure edible olive oil during November 1, 1949, to October 1, 1950, amounted to 85,428 tons with France the principal buyer. Stocks on hand November 1 were estimated at around 4,400 tons.

Opening prices of new-crop oil quoted at Sfax on November 1 for immediate delivery were as follows: surfine, 17,500 to 17,800 francs per 100 kilograms (\$454 to \$462 per short ton); ordinary edible known as "bouchable," 17,200 to 17,300 francs (\$446 to \$449); and the "lampante", 16,800 to 16,900 francs (\$436 to \$438). By November 15, surfine oil had risen to 19,500 francs (\$506) and other grades went up correspondingly. These prices are well below the peak of August 1950 when surfine oil reached 22,900 francs (\$594), but the present tendency is upward.

With but an average crop, a small carry-over, and a good foreign demand for olive oil that has developed in the past year, the Government is expected soon to decide whether to maintain the absolutely free market in effect since October 6, 1949, or to establish some measure of control particularly of prices and exports.

MAURITIUS EDIBLE OILS SUPPLY IMPROVES

The Colony of Mauritius and its dependencies, the "Oil Islands" of the Chagos Group and the Agalega Islands, have taken steps to increase copra production--the principal source of its edible vegetable oil supply--to 2,500 tons per year, according to D.R. Hinton of the American Consulate, Mombasa. Production during the past 10 years has averaged just below 2,000 tons annually. Of this quantity approximately 1,300 tons are produced in the Chagos Group and 700 in the Agalega Islands. It is contemplated that production will be increased to 1,650 and 850 tons, respectively.

Efforts have been made to eliminate 3 principal difficulties which have hampered production of copra in the past. They have been (1) shortage of labor in the Islands, (2) inefficiency of the labor; and (3) irregularity in transporting coconuts from the dependencies to Mauritius. In an effort to overcome the labor difficulties, experienced laborers from Seychelles have been recruited for service in Agalega. It is expected that if this proves successful, additional Seychelles labor will be recruited for work in the Chagos Group. The transportation difficulty has now been overcome largely by the acquisition by private companies of a new 720-ton motor vessel. The entire copra output from these islands is brought to Mauritius where it is processed into edible oils, soap and poonac (copra cake). There are, therefore, no copra exports from Mauritius.

Annual vegetable oil requirements of Mauritius are estimated at 4,000 tons. Of this quantity about 1,200 tons are locally-produced coconut oil and the balance is supplied by imports, chiefly in the form of peanut oil.

If copra production increases to 2,500 tons per year, the Islands can expect to produce about 1,600 tons of coconut oil annually. A plan to produce 2,500 tons of peanuts a year also has been initiated which, if successful, should result in an annual production of 600 tons of peanut oil. Thus, if the increase in copra production is attained, and if the peanut plan proves successful, Mauritius may shortly produce slightly more than half of the Islands' requirements of edible oils.

DENMARK DISCONTINUES MARGARINE AND BUTTER RATIONING

Denmark canceled margarine and butter rationing on November 7, 1950, and the rationing of fats to bakeries was abolished. The free use of vegetable oils will be permitted for purposes other than the production of margarine.

Restuarants are no longer required to collect coupons for margarine and butter nor are they restricted to the use of specific quantities in the preparation of sandwiches and hot dishes.

Regulations governing the composition of margarine are still in effect in order to hold the consumption of the various oils in line with supply. The retail price of margarine increased from 2.92 kroner (19.2 cents) in June to 3.56 kroner per kilogram (23.4 cents per pound) on November 6, 1950.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE REVIEWS OUTLOOK FOR VEGETABLE OILS

Canada's outlook for fats and oils during 1950-51 is considerably changed from that for 1949-50, according to a report to the Federal Provincial Agricultural Conference in November 1950. Canada entered the 1949-50 crop year with large stocks of flaxseed and record crops of sunflower seed and soybeans. There was also a moderate supply of rapeseed. Practically all of the flaxseed stocks have been disposed of; sunflower seed production is about one-third the amount of the previous year because of poor growing conditions in the spring; and rapeseed has disappeared as a cash crop. Soybean production, however, is considerably higher than in 1949.

The 1951-52 prospects for an increase in flaxseed acreage appear favorably. Assuming a continuation of the current level of industrial activity, the domestic and export demand for flaxseed and linseed oil should absorb 6 to 7 million bushels, with reasonable returns to growers. On the basis of the 1943-47 average yield of slightly over 7 bushels per acre, a seeded acreage of approximately 1 million acres would be required to produce this quantity.

Canada's November estimate of 1950 flaxseed production is 4.5 million bushels, which is not sufficient to meet domestic requirements until the end of the 1950-51 season. It seems likely that drying oils will be imported. This will be a reversal of the situation during the last few years. Prices for flaxseed in Canada will likely remain strong through 1950-51.

Continued expansion of soybean acreage will depend on the competitive position of this crop in relation to the crops which it would displace. The 1950 soybean output of slightly more than 3 million bushels is 17 percent greater than last year.

The reversal in 1950 of the trend toward increased acreage in sunflower seed was due to the late spring and flood conditions in southern Manitoba (where the entire commercial crop is grown) and not to market prospects. The acreage sown to sunflowers was only 23,000 compared with 60,000 acres in 1949.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

| Market location, kind, and quality | Date 1950 | Unit of weight | Unit of currency | Price in foreign currency | Equivalent U.S. cents per pound | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | Export Spot | and inter- mediate taxes |
| Alexandria | | :Kantar | | | | |
| Ashmouni, Good..... | 12-7 | : 99.05 lbs. | :Tallari | : 120.35 | : 69.72 | : 5.91 |
| Ashmouni, FGF..... | " | : " | : " | : (not | : quoted) | : 5.91 |
| Karnak, Good..... | " | : " | : " | : 120.00 | : 69.52 | : 5.91 |
| Karnak, FGF..... | " | : " | : " | : 112.00 | : 64.89 | : 5.91 |
| Bombay | | :Candy | | | | |
| Jarila, Fine..... | " | : 784 lbs. | :Rupee | :1/ 770.00 | : 20.50 | : 21.30 |
| Broach Vijay, Fine.... | " | : " | : " | :1/ 840.00 | : 22.36 | : 21.30 |
| Karachi | | :Maund | | | | |
| 4F Punjab, SG, Fine.... | 12-6 | : 82.28 lbs. | : " | : 100.80 | : 36.96 | :2/23.09 |
| 289F Sind, SG, Fine.... | " | : " | : " | : 104.00 | : 38.13 | :2/23.09 |
| 289F Punjab, SG, Fine.. | " | : " | : " | : 106.00 | : 38.86 | :2/23.09 |
| Buenos Aires | | :Metric ton | | | | |
| Type B..... | 12-7 | : 2204.6 lbs. | :Peso | : 4550.00 | : 41.28 | : 3.99 |
| Lima | | :Sp. quintal | | | | |
| Tanguis, Type 3-1/2.... | 12-5 | : 101.4 lbs. | :Sol | : (not | : quoted) | : |
| Tanguis, Type 5..... | " | : " | : " | : (not | : quoted) | : |
| Pima, Type 1..... | " | : " | : " | : 698.00 | : 46.04 | : 28.89 |
| Recife | | :Arroba | | | | |
| Mata, Type 4..... | 12-7 | : 33.07 lbs. | :Cruzeiro | : 315.00 | : 51.82 | : 6.30 |
| Sertao, Type 5..... | " | : " | : " | : 340.00 | : 55.94 | : 6.80 |
| Sertao, Type 4..... | " | : " | : " | : 350.00 | : 57.58 | : 7.00 |
| Sao Paulo | | | | | | |
| Sao Paulo, Type 5..... | " | : " | : " | : 365.00 | : 60.05 | :2-1/2% ad |
| Torreon | | :Sp. quintal | | | | : valorem |
| Middling, 15/16"..... | " | : 101.4 lbs. | :Peso | :3/ (not available) | : | : |
| Houston-Galveston-New | | | | | | |
| Orleans av.Mid. 15/16" | " | :Pound | :Cent | : XXXXX | : 41.78 | : — |

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling prices.

2/ Correction: Karachi export tax listed as 23.90 on November 29, 1950, should be 23.09.

3/ Torreon, November 22, 1950, 375.00 pesos (42.79 U.S. cents) tax 7.63.

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM CONTINUES SLOW INCREASE

Cotton consumption in the United Kingdom, which has shown a steady upward trend for many months, registered a sharp increase in October and the industry established a new postwar high of an average consumption of 45,000 bales per week.

Cotton consumption in the 1949-50 season was reported at 2,094,000 bales, which was a 5 percent increase over the 1948-49 season and up to the goal set last season for the industry for a 3-year period calling for a 5 percent increase each year.

Although cotton textile exports were the cause of some concern early in the year, in the past few weeks there has been a rush of business, and the majority of the manufacturers now have commitments representing several months' production. Increased interest in British textiles from overseas markets and particularly increased inquiries from dollar areas have dispelled any doubt about trade prospects.

Cotton textile exports during the first 9 months of 1950 were below those of 1949. Over the entire 1950 calendar year they are expected, however, to fall possibly 10 percent short of the 903 million square yards exported in 1949 and far short of the 1,368 million square yards exported in 1938. However, exports are now increasing and in October exceeded the 1949 level for the first time.

Machinery capacity for further advances in yarn output is not lacking as only 82 percent of the spindles in place in running mills were active in the first quarter of 1950. Shortage of labor has been a problem in increasing textile production and there is some fear the recruitment of workers for the textile industry may be made more difficult by the intensified activity in the armaments industry.

The greatest concern at present, however, is the difficulty of getting continuous deliveries of particular types of cotton needed for maintaining production of high-grade goods for export markets on which Lancashire's reputation depends. The worst difficulty has been caused by the short United States crop and the necessity of adjusting to restricted United States exports. Due to the diminishing supply of United States cotton the Raw Cotton Commission has restricted the distribution of such cotton to British mills to 10,000 bales per month, compared to an average of 15,000 bales per month over the previous season, and spinners have been forced to switch to other growths. Medium-staple users are turning to Mexican, Argentine, East African, Nigerian, and Syrian growths. Users of California cotton are reducing their consumption drastically on this growth or switching to Peruvian cotton.

Stocks of cotton in the United Kingdom were reported at 1,400,000 bales at the beginning of the season on August 1, 1950, and stocks were maintained at about this level until November 1, 1950. This is equal to approximately 8 months' supply and is considered normal in the United Kingdom where a production of a wide variety of cotton textiles calls

for a wide range of various types of cotton. However, the United Kingdom has about exhausted its current allotment of 235,000 bales of United States cotton and as other growths become increasingly difficult to secure, these stocks are expected to be reduced to a minimum.-- By Glenn A. Ruggles, based on reports of Kathleen M. Greaves, American Consulate, Manchester, England.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

AUSTRALIA EXPECTS LARGE WHEAT CROP

The wheat harvest now under way in Australia will exceed 200 million bushels and may reach 210 million, according to latest reports received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations from the American Consulate at Sydney. This would be only moderately below the record crop of 220 million bushels in 1947 and would be the fourth successive season of above-average yields. Compared with last year's near-record outturn, present prospects are for a reduction of about 5 percent. The reduction is attributed to smaller acreage, with prospects for about the same average yield per acre as the high yields of 1949.

A crop of the size reported would normally provide about 125 million bushels available for export. Australia's quota under the second year (ending July 31, 1951) of the International Wheat Agreement is 85 million bushels. This would leave a substantial quantity available for export outside the Agreement. According to a recent statement of the Chairman of the Wheat Board, overseas demand for Australian wheat remains very active, with inquiries received in sufficient quantities to keep railways and ports busy from January to July, 1951.

The current crop estimate is more favorable than earlier-season expectations despite some unfavorable conditions. Too much rain was reported for New South Wales and Queensland in October, while additional rain in September would have improved returns in South Australia. In Victoria and Western Australia, however, exceptionally favorable late-season weather was reported.

Production in the various States shows considerable variation from the 1949 outturns, according to present indications. Preliminary estimates show an expected crop of 60 million bushels, a decline of 19 million bushels in the production in New South Wales, as a result of reduced acreage and smaller yields. Acreage in this largest producing State was down 18 percent, chiefly because excessive rains held up preparation of the land and seeding operations. Excessive rainfall during part of the growing season in some areas of the State caused losses from lodging and stem rust. Present prospects are for yields about 2 bushels per acre less than last year's high yields. Wide variation in weight per bushel is indicated for the current crop.

AUSTRALIA: Wheat acreage and production by
States, 1950-51, with comparisons

| State | Average 1934-35 1938-39 | 1948-49 | 1949-50 | 1950-51 ^{1/} |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres |
| <u>Acreage for grain</u> | | | | |
| New South Wales..... | 4,168 | 4,038 | 4,012 | 3,275 |
| Victoria..... | 2,522 | 2,996 | 2,828 | 2,830 |
| Queensland..... | 312 | 608 | 600 | 620 |
| South Australia..... | 3,096 | 2,063 | 1,897 | 1,845 |
| Western Australia..... | 2,864 | 2,867 | 2,894 | 3,110 |
| Tasmania..... | 16 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Australian Capital Territory.. | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Total..... | 12,980 | 12,583 | 12,241 | 11,690 |
| | 1,000 bushels | 1,000 bushels | 1,000 bushels | 1,000 bushels |
| <u>Production</u> | | | | |
| New South Wales..... | 53,634 | 64,704 | 81,939 | 60,000 |
| Victoria..... | 34,505 | 49,064 | 57,434 | 57,500 |
| Queensland..... | 4,223 | 14,317 | 11,778 | 11,000 |
| South Australia..... | 32,578 | 26,136 | 28,347 | 30,000 |
| Western Australia..... | 28,984 | 36,250 | 38,500 | 45,400 |
| Tasmania..... | 359 | 156 | 127 | 130 |
| Australian Capital Territory.. | 42 | 76 | 100 | 100 |
| Total..... | 154,325 | 190,703 | 218,225 | 204,130 |

^{1/} Preliminary estimates.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

The next most significant change is noted for Western Australia, with an expected crop of 45 million bushels, a gain of about 7 million bushels over the previous harvest. Acreage is up about 7 percent and yields are expected to be about 10 percent above 1949 yields. Above-average yields are forecast for most districts.

Production in Victoria, normally the second largest wheat producer, is forecast at the same level as last year's crop of 57 million bushels. This is sharply above the 1934-38 average of about 35 million bushels. Acreage shows a moderate increase, but the bulk of the gain is based on higher yields.

A crop of 30 million bushels is forecast for South Australia. This would fall about midway between the 1949 crop of 28 million and the prewar average of 33 million bushels. The increase is attributed to better yields. Acreage shows a slight decline from the 1949 area and is about 40 percent below the prewar acreage.

The expected production of 11 million bushels in Queensland would be only slightly below last year's large harvest and more than double the prewar average. Increases over the prewar period are due to almost doubled acreage and higher yields. Present prospects for 17.7 bushels per acre compare with 13.5 bushels in 1934-38.

A recent proposal to extend the period of operation of the Wheat Stabilization Plan to 10 years, has been reported. The proposal, which would require assent of the State Governments as well as the Commonwealth Government, would extend the plan now in operation to the end of the 1957-58 season.

THAILAND HARVEST PROVIDES LARGE RICE SURPLUS

Thailand's exportable surplus of rice during 1951 is estimated at 2,600 million pounds, about the same volume as the exports anticipated in 1950. A large acreage was planted, weather conditions have been relatively favorable, and high yields per acre are expected to be harvested from the current crop (in December). Exports in 1949 totaled 2,680 million pounds in terms of milled rice.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

1951 OUTLOOK FOR CANADIAN LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

The annual Canadian Agricultural Outlook Conference for 1950 was held in Ottawa the last week of November. A review of the crop year ending September 30, 1950 and prospects for 1950-51, based on reports from the Agricultural Conference and Francis A. Flood, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa, is presented herewith:

Livestock and Meat

Inspected meat output in Canada during the year ending September 30, 1950, reached 1,477 million pounds, an increase of about 6 percent above the previous year's total of 1,398 million pounds. During the same period exports of meat showed an increase of more than 25 percent, 225 million pounds in 1949-50 compared with 179 million pounds in the preceding year. Consumption of all meats rose about 2 percent in 1949-50, compared with a year ago.

When compared with the preceding year, pork production increased by 22 percent, exports by 64 percent and consumption by 14 percent. In the same period veal production and consumption were up by 2 percent and 5 percent, respectively, when compared with that of the 1948-49 year.

On the other hand, beef production in 1949-50 was 8 percent below the preceding year, while consumption of beef declined by 10 percent. Exports of live cattle in 1949-50 totaled 483,000 head, while exports of dressed beef reached 114 million pounds, representing increases of 12 percent and 3 percent, respectively, above a year earlier. Relatively higher prices for beef caused consumer demand to shift from beef to pork. As a result, domestic prices for pork have been high in relation to the price of \$32.50 per 100 pounds, Grade A Wiltshire sides, established by the Meat Board to fulfil the United Kingdom bacon contract.

For the 12 months ending September 30, 1951 a slight decline in the marketings of all livestock is expected, compared with 1949-50 levels. With slightly lower marketing and no change expected in per capita consumption of meat in 1950-51, the exportable surplus of livestock and meat is expected to be somewhat below that of 1949-50.

Cattle marketings are expected to show a further decline in 1950-51 as a result of a lower cattle population, heavy exports of feeder cattle and yearlings to the United States in 1949-50, the high rate of culling of herds, and a tendency toward the retention of breeding animals. It is expected that the marketing of calves in 1950-51 will remain at about the same level as the preceding year. Hog marketings in 1950-51 are expected to drop about 5 to 10 percent below 1949-50, but the relatively large supply of feedgrains should tend to raise average hog slaughter weights. Reduced sheep marketings are anticipated in 1950-51, but to a lesser extent than in the previous year. High prices for lambs and wool have encouraged producers to withhold ewes for breeding.

By the last quarter of 1951, marketings of cattle, calves, sheep and lambs may turn slightly upward. The large feed crop, together with some prospect of lower feed grain prices, should also warrant the expectation of a considerable increase in hog marketings during October-December 1951, compared with the same period in 1950.

Eggs and Poultry

The Canadian Poultrymen's Outlook for 1951 is encouraging as the industry has successfully geared its production of eggs principally to the domestic market during the year and is no longer considerably dependent upon the United Kingdom purchases that took a significant portion of their production in the postwar years up to 1949. A sharp readjustment occurred in late 1949 and early 1950 but since then the Government storage program which encouraged more even distribution of the supply throughout the year, and the high prices for competitive food, particularly meat, which strengthened egg prices, have stabilized the situation. The smaller hatch in 1950 has also limited production in the last months of the year and the egg output from the smaller 1950-51 flocks should not exceed domestic consumption. Canadian officials estimate the output of eggs during the September 1, 1950-August 31, 1951 production year will be about 10 percent less than that of the corresponding 1949-50 interval.

Canadian egg production for each month in 1950 has been above the production for the comparable months last year. The total farm production in the first 9 months of 1950 was 253 million dozen which is 5 percent above January-September of 1949. Egg output in the remainder of the year is likely to fall off, however, as the chick hatch this year totaled only 64 million which is 21 percent smaller than in 1949. The June 1 survey of the number of pullets, not yet of laying age, on farms was 15.4 million which was 14 percent below the year before.

The domestic consumption of eggs in Canada during the first 9 months of 1950 is estimated at 250 million dozen which represents the spectacular increase of 13 percent over the same period a year earlier. This increase in consumption was encouraged by relatively high meat prices and a decrease in egg prices from 1949. Also important is the relatively low per-capita consumption of eggs in Canada, which was only 252 eggs in all of 1949, compared to the United States level of slightly more than an egg a day.

The temporarily pessimistic outlook for poultrymen at the end of 1949, due to the loss of the United Kingdom egg contract which had been renewed annually for several years, was strengthened by the announcement of the Canadian Government to support the price of eggs through a storage program during the first half of the year. Though the quantity of shell eggs exported dropped from 17 million dozen in the first 9 months of 1949 to 5 million dozen for the same period in 1950, stocks have not been burdensome due to the increase in domestic consumption. Stocks of shell eggs in Canada on October 1 were 15.4 million dozen which was 3.7 million dozen above a year earlier, but they have been moving into markets at a good rate in the last few months as prices have held fairly strong.

The export of the shell eggs in the first 9 months of 1950 totaled 5.3 million dozen, of which about 75 percent were shipped to the United States.

Poultry meat production is temporarily estimated at 308 million pounds for 1950 which is 2 million pounds more than that produced a year earlier. A smaller output, however, is indicated for 1951. Prices for poultry have been quite good all year because of relatively high consumer purchasing power and the relatively high prices for beef and pork. The supply of chickens heavier than broiler weights will be less than in 1949 because of the smaller hatch for these types. The production of broilers in commercial plants is nevertheless expected to be sufficient to offset the reduced supply of heavier chickens in the market. An exceptional increase in broiler production during 1951 will be necessary, however, to offset the prospective further decline in other poultry meats if the total production next year is to be maintained.

The domestic consumption of poultry is estimated at 302 million pounds this year which is about 22 million pounds more than last year. This increase is possible as there is currently indicated a slightly higher production and a sizeable decrease in exports and stocks during 1950. Exports of dressed poultry, as well as of live poultry to the United States, the principal foreign market, for the first 9 months of 1950 have been far

below exports during the same period last year, which in turn were far below exports from January to September 1948. Canadian prices for poultry have been relatively strong and should continue to be so with the prospect of fewer farm chickens in 1951.

The production of turkey meat from the 1949 hatch was much larger than from the hatch during 1948. The marketing of turkey meat during the last of 1950 and the first of 1951 will probably be larger than the previous year, as the hatch was again larger in 1950. Reports on the marketing of turkeys are not complete but the large supply is expected to be more than can be readily sold in the domestic market.

Dairy Outlook

The Canadian officials report the production of milk during 1951 is expected to increase only slightly above the 17 billion pounds produced in each of the 2 preceding years. Prices for milk paid to dairymen have been increasing and the prospects for feed in the milk producing areas during the early months of 1951 are better than experienced in the first part of this year. A slightly higher rate of production is expected next year due to heavier feeding, especially in the winter, but the number of dairy cows is not expected change much.

Larger quantities of all dairy products have been consumed domestically in 1950. The per capita consumption of fluid milk and creamery butter increased in 1950 over 1949 and the domestic disappearance of cheddar cheese was 7 percent higher while the Canadians consumed record quantities of evaporated milk and dry skim milk during the year. A strong demand for dairy products is expected to continue in 1951 and the quantity consumed may continue to increase.

The Canadian exportable surplus of manufactured dairy products has declined as larger quantities of the fairly constant total milk production are consumed domestically. Exports of milk in 1951 are tentatively estimated in milk equivalents at 600 million pounds or about 4 percent of the expected production. The major portion of Canadian dairy exports in previous years has been in the form of cheese to the United Kingdom.

Fluid milk and cream per capita consumption increased during 1950 for the first time since 1945 and is expected to continue strong next year. Fluid milk outlets utilized 35 percent of the total milk production. The consumption of creamery butter in 1950 was larger than a year earlier though stocks are lower as the production during the year has also decreased in 1950 from last year's level. Canadian officials anticipate continued strong demand for butter and a firm market for dried skim milk in 1951 which is expected to encourage larger quantities of milk for these combined uses in the coming year.

The cheddar cheese production in 1950 was less than in 1949 as relatively higher prices could be obtained for milk utilized as fluid milk and evaporated milk. A further decline in the output of cheese is expected in 1951. The lower production of cheese and the increased domestic consumption held exports to approximately 60 million pounds though considerable effort was made to supply the minimum of 70 million pounds specified in the United Kingdom contract. Since cheese consumption is expected to continue at about the same level in 1951 and stocks are lower, there are apt to be smaller quantities for export in the coming year.

The production of evaporated milk has increased, particularly in the latter part of 1950, in relation to the 1949 output as both domestic and export demands have strengthened considerably in this period. A record quantity of evaporated milk was consumed domestically this year and further increases in the production, consumption and exports are expected in 1951. Most prices for concentrated dairy products increased late in 1950 and are expected to be maintained in 1951.

VENEZUELA POULTRYMEN DISCOURAGE POULTRY MEAT IMPORTS

Venezuela poultry meat producers are campaigning against importation of low-quality frozen chicken meat, which they feel injures their market. They have made the following recommendations to the Ministry of Health:

1. Only grade A chickens accompanied by government certification should be imported.
2. All frozen food should be examined in the laboratories of the Minister of Health before it can be sold.
3. All transportation of frozen foods in Venezuela must be in vehicles designed for that specific purpose.

These regulations would permit imports of higher priced poultry which has a limited market and is not competitive with domestic production, but will exclude imports of competitively priced frozen poultry meat.

Venezuela imports of frozen poultry during January-June 1950 were 2.3 million pounds as compared to 4.1 million pounds for the year 1949.

CUBAN CANNED MILK CEILING PRICE SET

The Cuban Ministry of Commerce has issued a statement setting the official retail ceiling prices for canned milk as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Condensed milk, domestic | - | \$0.20 per 14-ounce tin |
| Condensed milk, imported | - | 0.20 per 14-ounce tin |
| Evaporated milk, domestic | - | 0.18 per 14½-ounce tin |
| Evaporated milk, imported | - | Cost plus 10 percent |

BELGIAN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, EXCEPT HORSES, CONTINUE UPWARD

Livestock numbers in Belgium, according to preliminary results of the May 15, 1950 census, continue the upward trend, except horses. Cattle numbers totaled 2,101,000 head, 12 percent above May, 1949 and 31 percent above the 1929 census. The number of hogs reached 1,329,000 head, an increase of 24 percent above a year earlier and 38 percent above 1929. Sheep and goat numbers were 13 percent and 23 percent, respectively, above the preceding year, while the number of horses was about 1 percent below comparable 1949.

BELGIUM: Number of livestock on May 15, 1950, with comparisons

| Classification | 1929 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 <u>1/</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands |
| Total cattle..... | 1,607 | 1,715 | 1,879 | 2,101 |
| Milk cows <u>2/</u> | 879 | 776 | 850 | 933 |
| Total horses..... | 317 | 281 | 267 | 263 |
| Farm horses..... | 266 | 253 | 244 | 242 |
| Hogs..... | 966 | 658 | 1,076 | 1,329 |
| Sheep..... | 185 | 147 | 165 | 187 |
| Goats..... | 158 | 74 | 71 | 87 |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes milk and work cows.

Compiled from official sources.

WOOL PRODUCTION SMALL IN COLOMBIA

The annual wool production in Colombia is reported to be about 3 million pounds, from slightly more than 1 million head of sheep. The Creole Breed, which has survived from colonial times, is by far the most common, although flocks of imported Merino, Romney Marsh, Oxford Down, Suffolk, Corriedale and other breeds are becoming somewhat more numerous in recent years.

More than half of all the sheep are found in the Paramo and Savanna regions of the Eastern Andean Cordilleras within the Departments of Cundinamarca, Boyaca and Santander. There are no large flocks and most of the country's sheep are owned by tenant farmers or small landholders.

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